



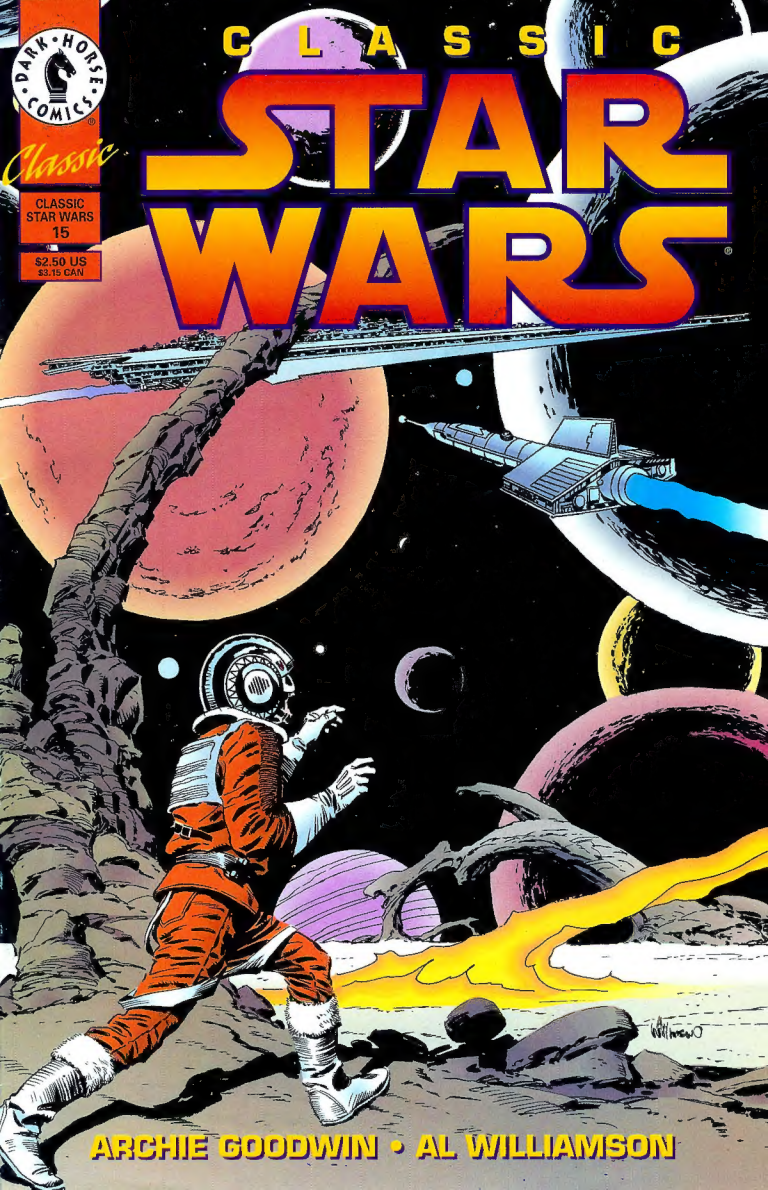
*Classic*

C L A S S I C

# STAR WARS

CLASSIC  
STAR WARS  
15

\$2.50 US  
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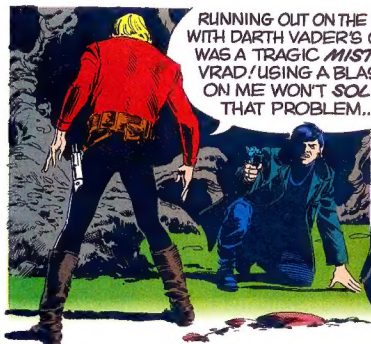
As our Rebel heroes attempt to surprise the Imperial troops on fogbound Daluuj, Han rigs a skimmer to blow up in their midst. Meanwhile, the Mon Calamari Admiral Ackbar devises a plan to draw the Imperials across the center of the lake where the Millennium Falcon lies submerged, so that the giant sea worms attack their skimmers — at the same time setting the Falcon free. As the Rebels escape Daluuj, a battle is joined between the Executor and a Rebel battle cruiser. After quickly dispatching the Rebel ship, Darth Vader continues toward the Rebels' Yavin base, leaving a series of Rebel ships strewn in his wake. Upon reaching Yavin Base, General Dodonna confides that he believes his son, Vrad, was lost in a failed attempt to stop Vader. This same scout ship, which Luke thinks he spotted sneaking away from the battle with Vader, subsequently crash lands on Yavin Four. Reunited with his son, General Dodonna asks for volunteers for a "doom mission" to stop Vader. Both Vrad and Luke volunteer, and before Luke can voice his doubts about Vrad's loyalty, the two promptly get in a tussle, with Vrad admitting that Luke's suspicions about his loyalties were right.

MAYBE I FLED THE *ENEMY* LAST MISSION, SKYWALKER... BUT I CAN STILL TEACH YOU SOMETHING ABOUT *FIGHTING!*



FIRST LESSON IS GOING TO BE *PAINFUL*: NEVER LET YOUR *FOE* GET THE ADVANTAGE!







Vrad Dodonna stalks away toward the Yavin base landing field...

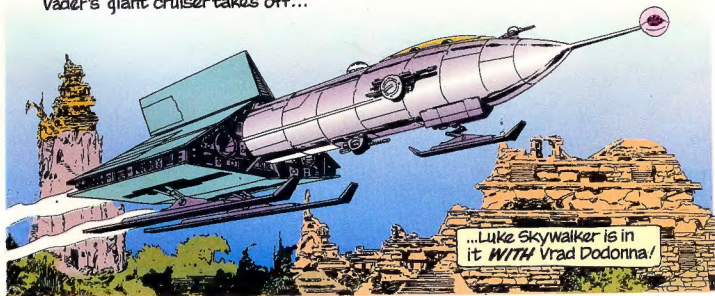


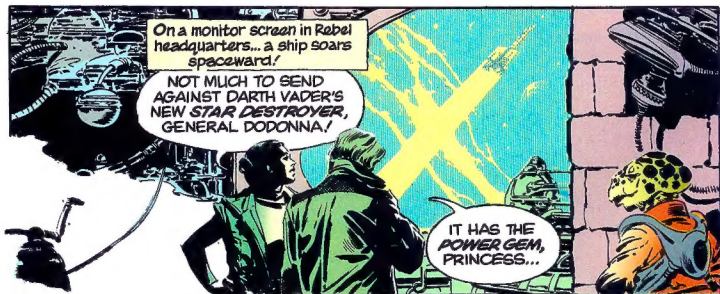
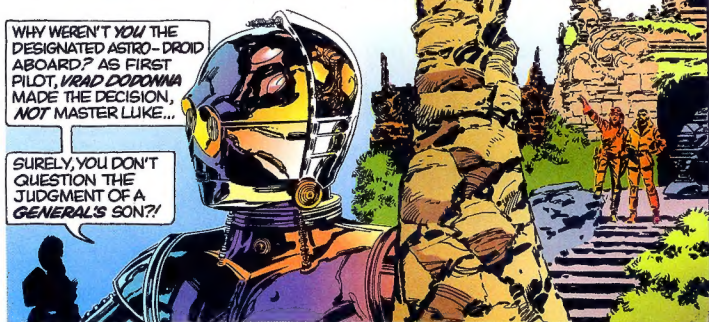
MAYBE YOU CAN'T *PROVE* IT, BUT THE GENERAL'S SON'S GONE *BAD*! ANY MISSION WITH HIM IS A *DOOM MISSION*!

BUT THE *REBEL ALLIANCE* IS *DOOMED* IF IT *FAILS*, HAN!



And shortly, when the attack ship that will strike at Darth Vader's giant cruiser takes off...



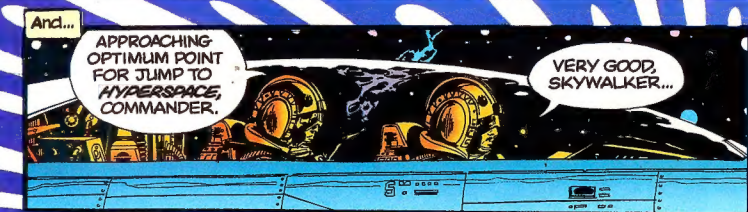






PLUS TWO OF  
OUR *BEST*...LUKE  
SKYWALKER  
AND YOUR  
OWN SON!

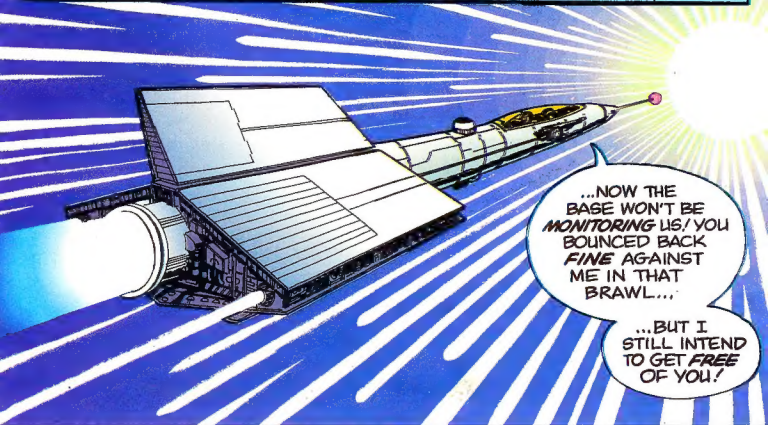
VRAD'S MADE  
ME VERY *PROUD*!  
ALTHOUGH...HE'S  
SOMEWHAT *CHANGED*  
SINCE HIS LAST  
MISSION...



And...

APPROACHING  
OPTIMUM POINT  
FOR JUMP TO  
*HYPERSPACE*,  
COMMANDER.

VERY GOOD,  
SKYWALKER...

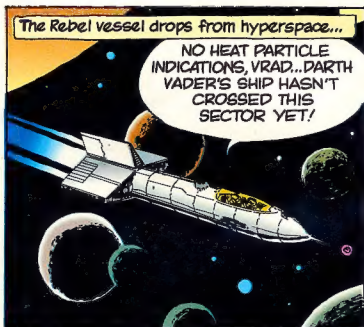
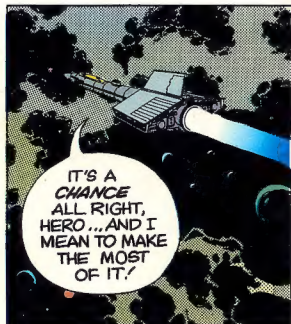


...NOW THE  
BASE WON'T BE  
*MONITORING* US! YOU  
BOUNCED BACK  
*FINE* AGAINST  
ME IN THAT  
BRAWL...

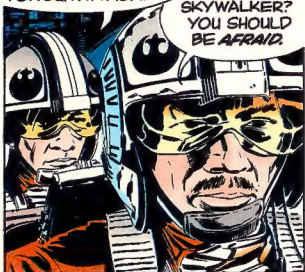
...BUT I  
STILL INTEND  
TO GET *FREE*  
OF YOU!



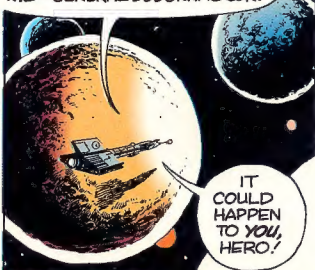
I'M HERE TO *HELP*, VRAD! YOU MADE A *MISTAKE* IN YOUR FIRST TRY AT DARTH VADER'S CRUISER...THIS IS A CHANCE TO GET IT *STRAIGHT*!



WITH ALL THESE PLANETIDS FOR *COVER*, IT'S A *PERFECT SPOT* FOR OUR ATTACK!



IN A FEW SECONDS, WE'LL BE FACING A *MONSTER*! IT BROKE *ME*--GENERAL DODONNA'S SON.





VRAD, WE'VE GOT TO **MOVE!** VADER'S CRUISER WILL BE THROUGH THIS SYSTEM IN **NO TIME!**

I'M ARMING THE **POWER GEM**, BUT A **SINGLE CRACK** AT THAT MONSTER'S SHIELDS IS ALL WE'LL GET!

RELAX, SKYWALKER...

...THE INSTANT THE IMPERIALS START **FIRING**, I'M GOING TO **FLEE** JUST LIKE I DID THE **FIRST TIME!**

LORD VADER! IT'S THE FINAL **REBEL ATTACK** YOU PREDICTED! BUT...IT'S ONLY ONE SMALL SHIP! THEY'RE **MAD!**

OR HOPING TO **APPEAR SO!** MAINTAIN **FULL SHIELDS**, ADMIRAL!

THE **LARGER** REBEL SHIPS FAILED TO PENETRATE OUR ENERGY SHIELDS, LORD VADER... SENDING THIS TINY ATTACK CRAFT IS **LUDICROUS!**

PERHAPS, ADMIRAL...

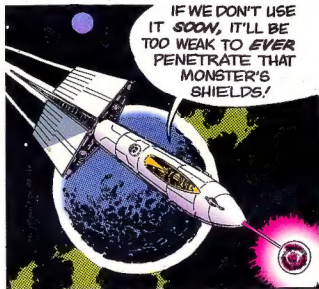


...BUT IN  
CASE IT'S *NOT*,  
ORDER OUR  
GUNNERS TO  
*OPEN  
FIRE!*



**ATTACK!** Luke and Vrad Dodonna's  
special craft zooms toward  
Darth Vader's huge new  
battle cruiser! But...

YOU *CAN'T*  
TURN AWAY, VRAD...  
NOT *NOW!* I'VE ARMED  
THE *POWER GEM...* ITS  
AURA IS *DRAINING!*



IF WE DON'T USE  
IT *SOON*, IT'LL BE  
TOO WEAK TO *EVER*  
PENETRATE THAT  
MONSTER'S  
SHIELDS!



WE CAME CLOSE ENOUGH FOR THEM  
TO *FEEL* IT, SKYWALKER! THAT'S *ALL*  
I WANT...  
EXCEPT FOR  
GETTING RID  
OF *YOU!*

Maneuvered wildly by Vrad Dodonna, the special Rebel attack ship successfully *FLEES* the monstrous cruiser, *EXECUTOR*!

LORD VADER! INSTRUMENTS INDICATE THAT TINY CRAFT NEARLY *PENETRATED* OUR SHIELD! WHAT COULD IT *HAVE* THAT--

A *POWER GEM*! AND SOMETHING *MORE* INTERESTING...

ALL *POWER GEMS* WERE DESTROYED DURING THE DAYS OF THE OLD REPUBLIC, LORD VADER!

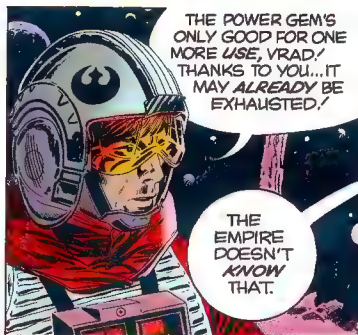
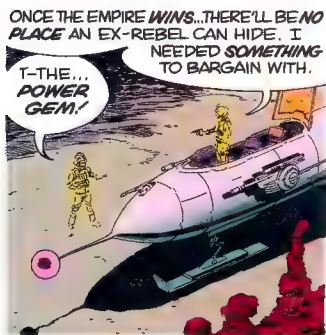
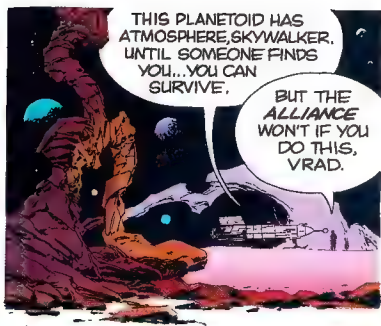
EVIDENTLY, THE REBELS FOUND AT LEAST *ONE* THAT WASN'T FOR THEIR ATTACK SHIP...

...BUT I AM *MORE* INTERESTED IN THE FACT THAT SOMEONE *ABOARD* THE CRAFT IS TOUCHED BY THE *FORCE*!

Abandoning the attack on Darth Vader's giant cruiser... Vrad Dodonna takes Luke to a nearby planetoid.

HERE'S WHERE WE PART *COMPANY*, SKYWALKER!



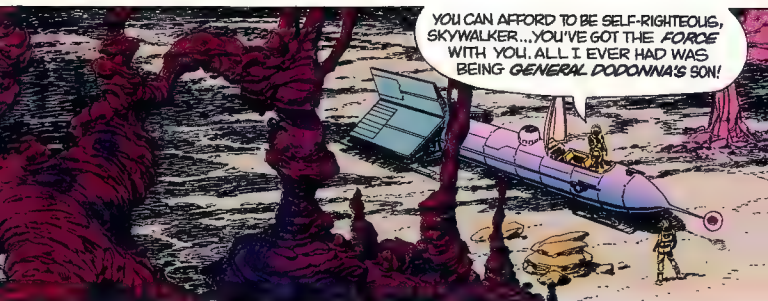


...AND NOW THAT THEY'VE HAD A *HINT* OF THE WAY IT CAN CRACK AN ENERGY SHIELD, I CAN BARGAIN FOR MY *LIFE* WITH THEM!

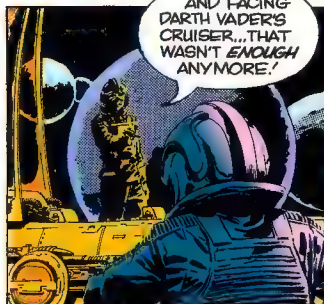


EVEN IF IT WORKS, VRAD... WHAT KIND OF LIFE WILL IT *BE*? WILL IT BE WORTH THE ENTIRE *REBEL ALLIANCE* AND YOUR OWN *FATHER*?





YOU CAN AFFORD TO BE SELF-RIGHTEOUS, SKYWALKER...YOU'VE GOT THE **FORCE** WITH YOU. ALL I EVER HAD WAS BEING **GENERAL DODONNA'S SON!**



AND FACING DARTH VADER'S CRUISER...THAT WASN'T **ENOUGH** ANYMORE!



THE **POWER GEM** ISN'T **TOTALLY** EXHAUSTED... WE COULD **STILL** MAKE ANOTHER STAB AT OUR MISSION!

VADER'S MONSTROSITY IS TOO FAR ALONG TOWARD **REBEL HEADQUARTERS** BY NOW...



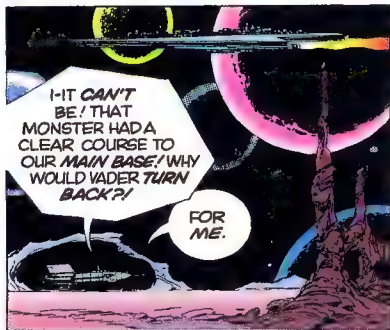
...QUIT TRYING TO MAKE ME TURN BACK INTO A **HERO!** I'M USING THE **POWER GEM** TO BUY A SAFE EXISTENCE FROM THE EMPIRE!

**VRAD!**

Meanwhile...

LORD  
VADER...OUR  
BATTLE SCHEDULE  
DOESN'T ALLOW FOR  
REVERSING OUR  
COURSE LIKE  
THIS!

I SENSED  
THE *FORCE* ON  
THAT TINY REBEL  
SHIP...IT *MUST*  
BE LUKE  
SKYWALKER!

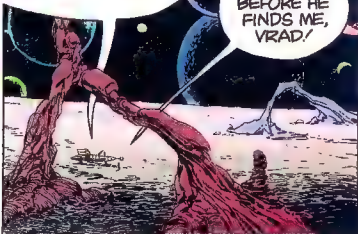


HE MUST HAVE SENSED THE *FORCE* WHEN  
WE FIRST ATTACKED HIS SHIP! THE  
MASS OF PLANETOIDS IN THIS SYSTEM  
WILL *CONFUSE*  
THEIR SCANNERS...



YOU MUST BE A REAL  
*THREAT* TO THE EMPIRE  
FOR VADER'S SHIP  
TO *RETURN* LIKE  
THIS, SKYWALKER.

WE CAN  
*STRIKE*  
BEFORE HE  
FINDS ME,  
VRAD!



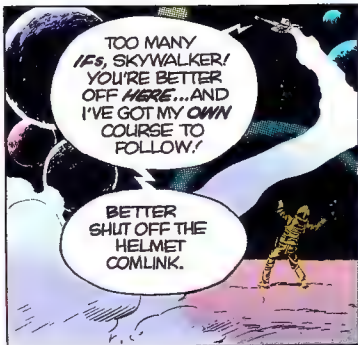


WHAT IF THE POWER GEM'S *TOO WEAK*  
NOW TO CRACK THEIR SHIELD? OR  
WE CAN'T HIT A  
VITAL SPOT IF  
WE *DO* CRACK  
IT?



TOO MANY  
*IFs*, SKYWALKER!  
YOU'RE BETTER  
OFF *HERE...* AND  
I'VE GOT MY *OWN*  
COURSE TO  
FOLLOW!

BETTER  
SHUT OFF THE  
HELMET  
COMLINK.



I *WON'T*  
LISTEN TO  
YOU... BUT THE  
*IMPERIALS* MIGHT  
TUNE IN!

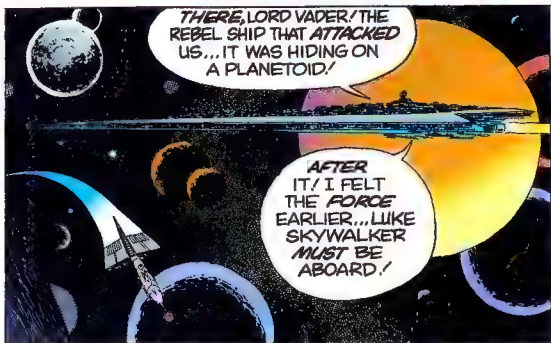


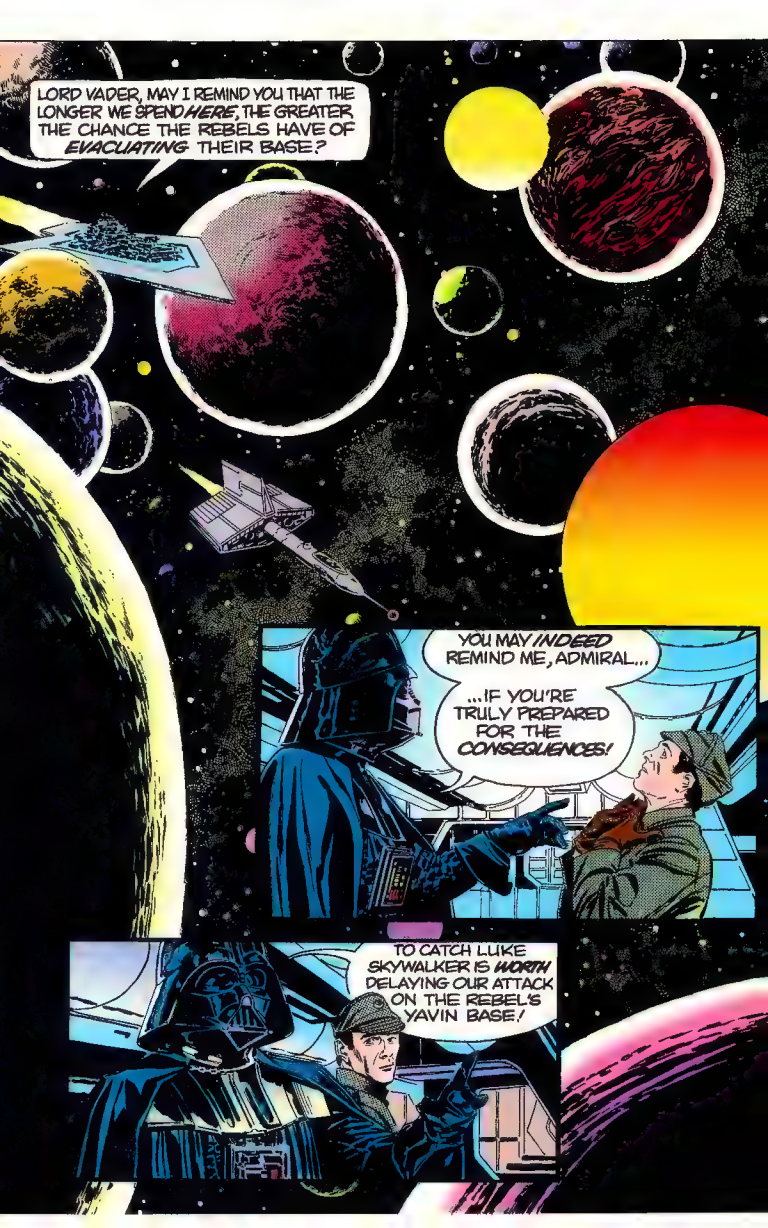
And...  
*LORD*  
VADER... LOOK  
AT THIS!



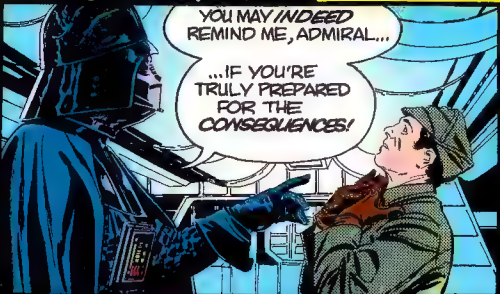
*THERE*, LORD VADER! THE  
REBEL SHIP THAT *ATTACKED*  
US... IT WAS HIDING ON  
A PLANETOID!

AFTER  
IT! I FELT  
THE *FORCE*  
EARLIER... LUKE  
SKYWALKER  
*MUST BE*  
ABOARD!





LORD VADER, MAY I REMIND YOU THAT THE LONGER WE SPEND *HERE*, THE GREATER THE CHANCE THE REBELS HAVE OF *EVACUATING* THEIR BASE?

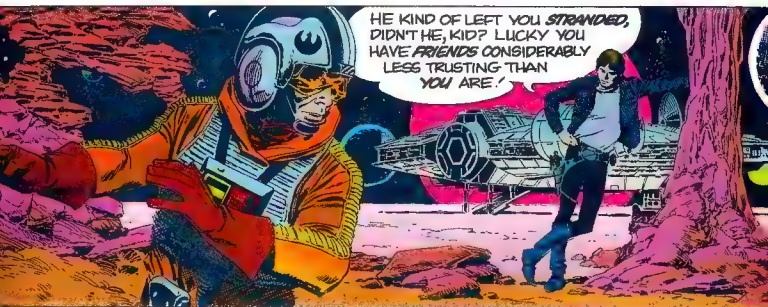
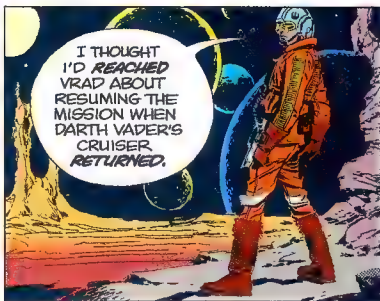
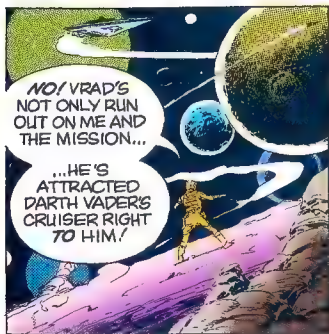


YOU MAY *INDEED* REMIND ME, ADMIRAL...

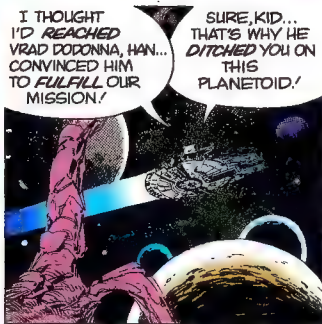
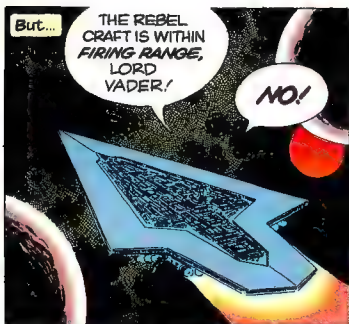
...IF YOU'RE TRULY PREPARED FOR THE CONSEQUENCES!



TO CATCH LUKE SKYWALKER IS *WORTH* DELAYING OUR ATTACK ON THE REBEL'S YAVIN BASE!







IT'S *STRANGE*, LORD VADER! THE REBEL CRAFT SHOULD BE TRYING TO JUMP TO *HYPERSPACE*!

*SILENCE!*  
I'M REACHING OUT WITH THE *FORCE* TO--

LORD VADER! IT'S CHANGED COURSE! IT'S *ATTACKING*!

WAROWWRRR!

THAT CAN'T BE, CHEWIE! LUKE, ACCORDIN' TO OUR SCOPES, VRAD DODONNA *DIDN'T* HIGHTAIL IT OUT OF THIS SYSTEM! IN FACT...

THE REBEL SHIP IS ATTACKING *HEAD ON*, LORD VADER!

THE POWER GEM *NEARLY* PENETRATED OUR SHIELDS. WE *MUST* DESTROY IT *NOW*!

ONCE *INSIDE* OUR SHIELD, EVEN *THAT* TINY SHIP MIGHT DO DAMAGE ENOUGH TO *RUIN* OUR MISSION, LORD VADER! LET ME TAKE *ACTION*!

NOT UNTIL I'M CERTAIN *LUKE SKYWALKER* IS NO LONGER ON THAT CRAFT, ADMIRAL. AT *THIS* RANGE, THE *FORCE* SHOULD CONFIRM...

"...THERE'S NO TRACE OF HIM!"

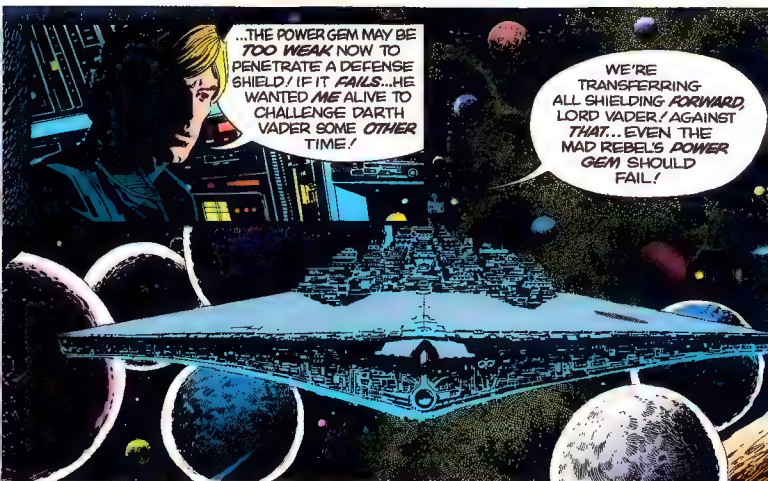
WE'VE GOT TO *TURN BACK*, HAN! IF VRAD DODONNA'S *ATTACKING* DARTH VADER'S CRUISER... IT MEANS HE *DID* LISTEN TO ME.

THEN WHY DID HE *ABANDON* YOU, LUKE?



THE REASON CHEWIE AN' ME **TAILED** YOU GUYS  
IS BECAUSE I **FIGURED**  
HE'D DO SOMETHIN'  
**SNEAKY** LIKE THAT!

HE DID  
IT TO **SAVE**  
ME...



...THE POWER GEM MAY BE  
**TOO WEAK** NOW TO  
PENETRATE A DEFENSE  
SHIELD! IF IT **FAILS**...HE  
WANTED **ME** ALIVE TO  
CHALLENGE DARTH  
VADER SOME **OTHER**  
TIME!

WE'RE  
TRANSFERRING  
ALL SHIELDING **FORWARD**,  
LORD VADER! AGAINST  
**THAT**... EVEN THE  
MAD REBEL'S **POWER**  
GEM SHOULD  
FAIL!



And...

LUKE/  
LUKE?

HAN, THAT'S  
VRAD ON THE  
COMLINK... WE'VE  
GOT TO GO  
**BACK!**

KID... IT  
WON'T **HELP**  
HIM NOW!  
BUT...



As Vlad Dodonna's voice crackles over the *MILLENNIUM FALCON'S* com-link...

LUKE, TELL MY FATHER...  
WHATEVER *ELSE* I'VE DONE...  
I'VE TRIED TO *MAKE*  
UP FOR IT...

...NOW!

LORD VADER! IT *WORKED*...THE REBEL'S  
FAILED/HIS POWER GEM WASN'T *STRONG*  
ENOUGH...NOT WHEN WE SWITCHED ALL  
SHIELDS *FORWARD*! HE WAS  
VAPORIZED AGAINST SO  
MUCH ENERGY/EVEN IF  
THIS *SKYWALKER*  
DISAPPEARED, WE--

SKYWALKER?  
THE *SHIELDING*,  
ADMIRAL/TRANSFER  
IT BA--

THIS IS FOR *Vlad*  
*DODONNA*...AND EVERYONE  
*ELSE* THIS MONSTER'S  
CLAIMED!

ER... LORD VADER, SINCE  
I TRANSFERRED ALL *DEFENSE*  
*SHIELDING* FORWARD AGAINST  
THE *FIRST* REBEL ATTACKER...  
I FEAR WE SUFFERED  
SOME SMALL... AH...  
*DAMAGE* JUST NOW...



...TO OUR *GYRO-CONTROL*  
*SYSTEM*! N-NOTHING BEYOND  
REPAIR, BUT *UNTIL* THEN...



WE CAN'T  
*TURN* THE  
CRUISER TO GIVE  
*PURSUIT* OR  
RESUME OUR  
*ATTACK*!

GREAT  
*SHOOTIN'*,  
LUKE... WE ONLY  
HAD *ONE CRACK*  
AT VADER'S  
BEHEMOTH  
BEFORE THEIR  
*SHIELD* WENT  
BACK UP!

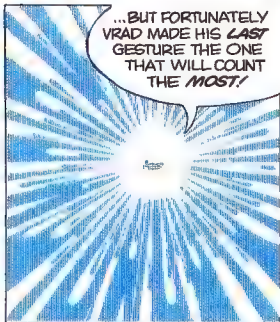
IF IT  
HADN'T BEEN  
FOR *VRAD*  
*DODONNA*...



...WE WOULDN'T HAVE HAD *ANY CRACKS*, HAN!  
I WOULDN'T WANT TO TELL GENERAL DODONNA  
ABOUT *ALL* HIS  
SON'S RECENT  
ACTIONS...

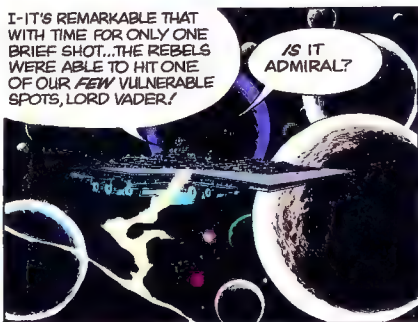


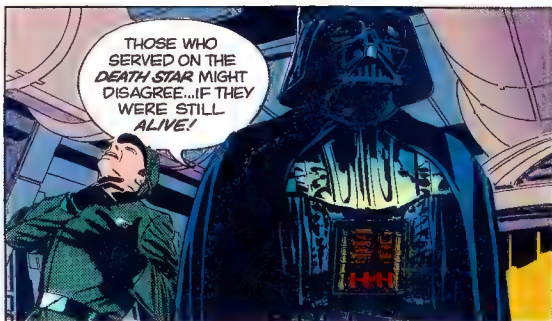
...BUT FORTUNATELY  
VRAD MADE HIS *LAST*  
GESTURE THE ONE  
THAT WILL COUNT  
THE *MOST*!



I-IT'S REMARKABLE THAT  
WITH TIME FOR ONLY ONE  
BRIEF SHOT... THE REBELS  
WERE ABLE TO HIT ONE  
OF OUR *FEW* VULNERABLE  
SPOTS, LORD VADER!

*IS IT*  
ADMIRAL?

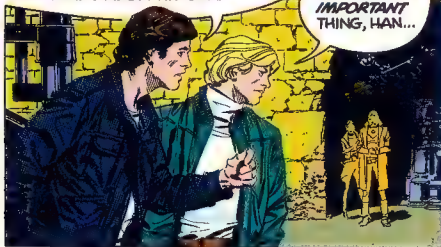




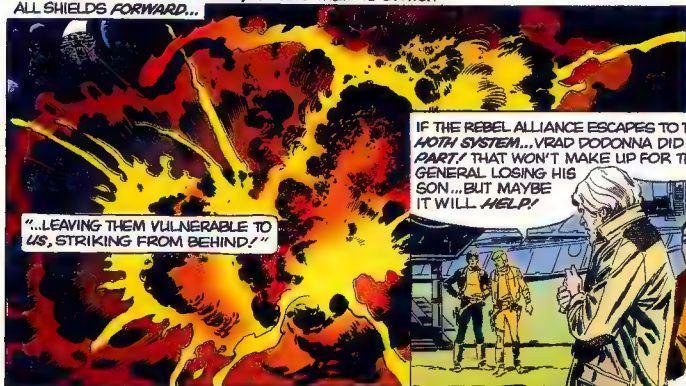


GENERAL DODONNA'S WITH THE PRINCESS,  
KID...GONNA BE ROUGH *EXPLAINING*  
EVERYTHING ABOUT HIS SON!

I'LL STICK  
TO THE  
IMPORTANT  
THING, HAN...



"DESPITE THE POWER GEM FAILING, HE WENT AT THE ENEMY  
ANYWAY...SACRIFICING *HIMSELF*, FORCING THEM TO SWITCH  
ALL SHIELDS *FORWARD*..."



"...LEAVING THEM VULNERABLE TO  
US, STRIKING FROM BEHIND!"

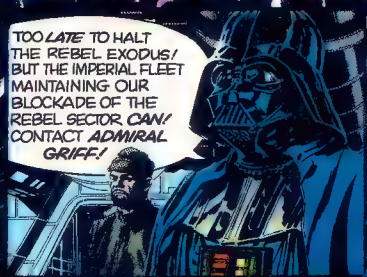
IF THE REBEL ALLIANCE ESCAPES TO THE  
*HOTH SYSTEM*...VRAD DODONNA DID HIS  
*PART*! THAT WON'T MAKE UP FOR THE  
GENERAL LOSING HIS  
SON...BUT MAYBE  
IT WILL *HELP*!

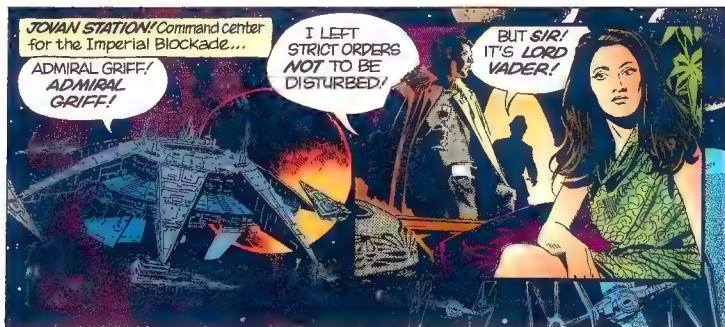


A FEW MORE *HOURS*, LORD VADER...  
THE REPAIRS WILL BE *COMPLETED*!  
WE CAN RESUME OUR  
*ATTACK*--



TOO LATE TO HALT  
THE REBEL EXODUS!  
BUT THE IMPERIAL FLEET  
MAINTAINING OUR  
BLOCKADE OF THE  
REBEL SECTOR CAN!  
CONTACT ADMIRAL  
*GRIFF*!





**JOVAN STATION!** Command center for the Imperial Blockade...

ADMIRAL GRIFF!  
ADMIRAL GRIFF!

I LEFT  
STRICT ORDERS  
**NOT** TO BE  
DISTURBED!

BUT SIR!  
IT'S **LORD  
VADER!**

THE REBELS  
HAVE SOMEHOW  
**STOPPED** HIS  
NEW BATTLE  
CRUISER, THE  
**EXECUTOR!**

THE **EXECUTOR** HAS BEEN  
STOPPED?! YOU'RE LYING!

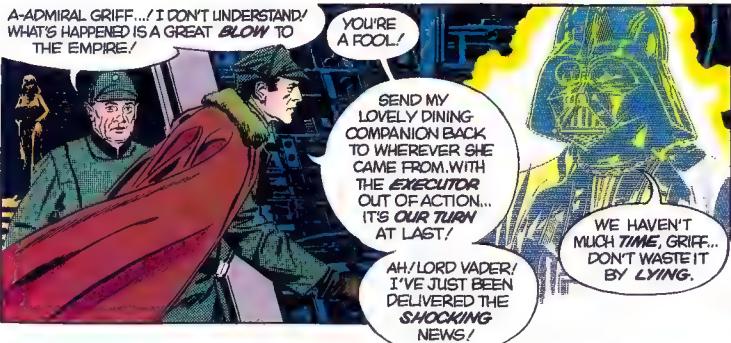
THE  
REBELS  
WOULD NEED  
A **FLEET** TO DO  
THAT! THEY  
HAVEN'T ANY  
TO SPARE!



I-IT'S **TRUE**,  
ADMIRAL GRIFF/I  
DON'T KNOW THE  
DETAILS, BUT **LORD  
VADER** HIMSELF  
CONFIRMS IT!

HE'S **CALLING**  
YOU, SIR/I H-HOPE  
THIS **DISASTER**  
DOESN'T MEAN--

DISASTER?  
IT'S A  
**MIRACLE!**



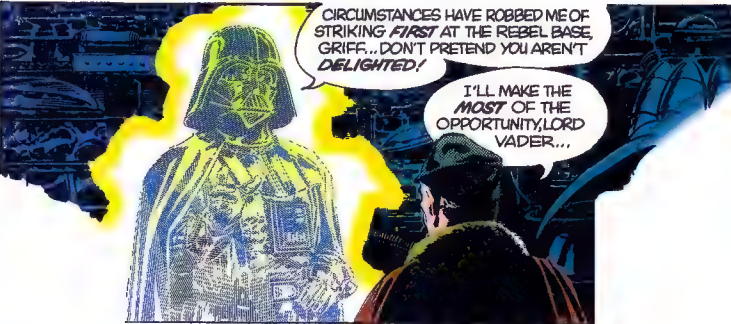
A-ADMIRAL GRIFF...! I DON'T UNDERSTAND!  
WHAT'S HAPPENED IS A GREAT **BLOW** TO  
THE EMPIRE!

YOU'RE  
A FOOL!

SEND MY  
LOVELY DINING  
COMPANION BACK  
TO WHEREVER SHE  
CAME FROM. WITH  
THE **EXECUTOR**  
OUT OF ACTION...  
IT'S **OUR TURN**  
AT LAST!

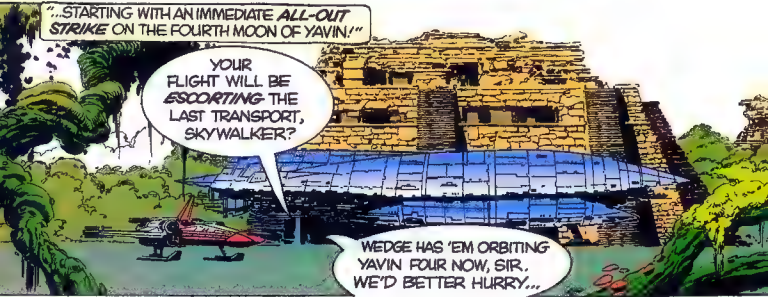
AH! LORD VADER!  
I'VE JUST BEEN  
DELIVERED THE  
**SHOCKING**  
NEWS!

WE HAVEN'T  
MUCH **TIME**, GRIFF...  
DON'T WASTE IT  
BY **LYING**.



CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE ROBBED ME OF  
STRIKING **FIRST** AT THE REBEL BASE,  
GRIFF... DON'T PRETEND YOU AREN'T  
**DELIGHTED!**

I'LL MAKE THE  
**MOST** OF THE  
OPPORTUNITY, LORD  
VADER...

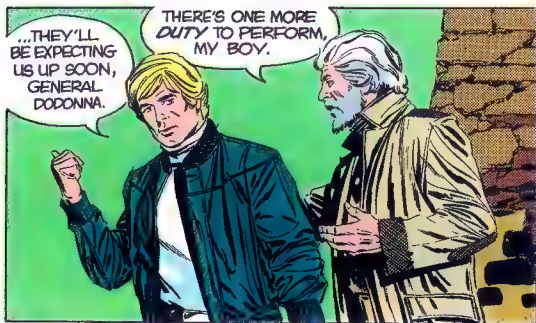


"...STARTING WITH AN IMMEDIATE **ALL-OUT**  
**STRIKE** ON THE FOURTH MOON OF YAVIN!"

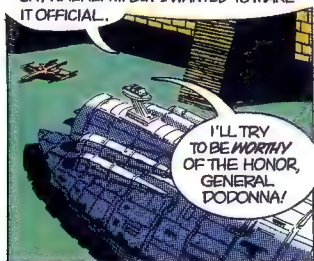
YOUR  
FLIGHT WILL BE  
**ESCORTING** THE  
LAST TRANSPORT,  
SKYWALKER?

WEDGE HAS 'EM ORBITING  
YAVIN FOUR NOW, SIR.  
WE'D BETTER HURRY...





THERE'LL BE A MORE *FORMAL* CEREMONY WHEN YOU REJOIN THE PRINCESS AND YOUR FRIENDS AT THE RENDEZVOUS, SKYWALKER... BUT I WANTED TO MAKE IT OFFICIAL.

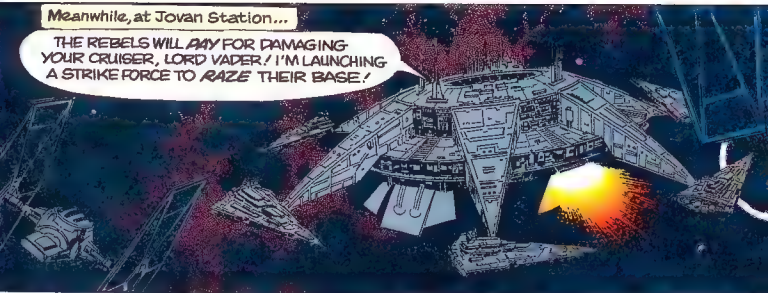


IT'S LONG *OVERDUE*, MY BOY! AND WITH THE RECENT DEATH OF MY SON, THERE'S A VACANCY IN THE RANK. SO WHO BETTER TO ... TO ...



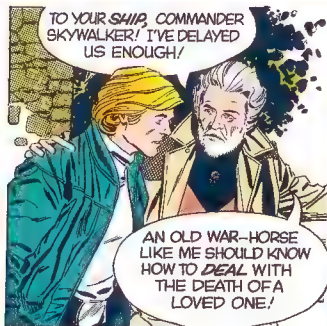
Meanwhile, at Jovan Station...

THE REBELS WILL *PAY* FOR DAMAGING YOUR CRUISER, LORD VADER! I'M LAUNCHING A STRIKE FORCE TO *RAZE* THEIR BASE!

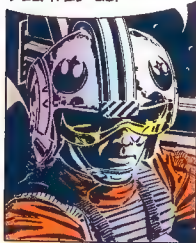


TO YOUR *SHIP*, COMMANDER SKYWALKER! I'VE DELAYED US ENOUGH!

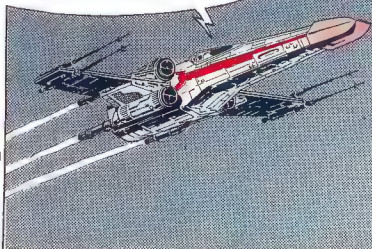
AN OLD WAR-HORSE LIKE ME SHOULD KNOW HOW TO *DEAL* WITH THE DEATH OF A LOVED ONE!



SHOULD BE RIGHT *BEHIND* ME, WEDGE! GENERAL DODONNA PULLED A SORT OF...UH...LAST-MINUTE *SURPRISE* THAT DELAYED US!

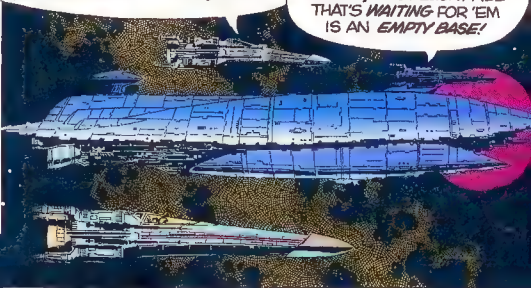


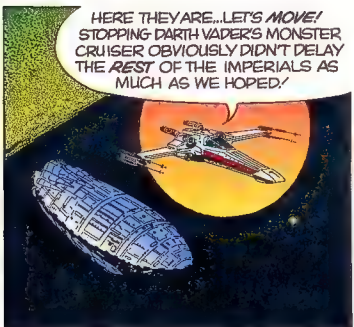
WHERE'S THAT LAST *TRANSPORT* WE'RE ESCORTING, LUKE? SCANNERS INDICATE A WHOLE *FLOCK* OF HOSTILES ON THE WAY!



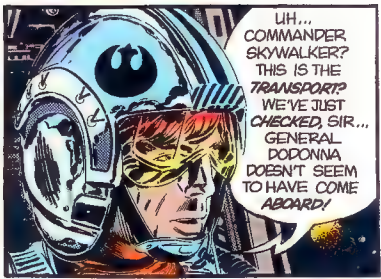
JUDGING BY THE *SCANNERS*... WE'RE CUTTING IT *CLOSE*, WEDGE!

THOSE IMPERIALS ARE *EAGER*, LUKE! LUCKY ALL THAT'S *WAITING* FOR 'EM IS AN *EMPTY* BASE!





HERE THEY ARE...LET'S *MOVE!*  
STOPPING DARTH VADER'S MONSTER  
CRUISER OBVIOUSLY DIDN'T DELAY  
THE *REST* OF THE IMPERIALS AS  
MUCH AS WE HOPED!



UH...  
COMMANDER  
SKYWALKER?  
THIS IS THE  
*TRANSPORT?*  
WE'VE JUST  
CHECKED, SIR...  
GENERAL  
DODONNA  
DOESN'T SEEM  
TO HAVE COME  
ABOARD!



TRANSPORT,  
WHAT ARE YOU  
*SAYING?* I SAW  
GENERAL  
DODONNA HEAD  
UP YOUR  
RAMP!



WE *KNOW*,  
COMMANDER  
SKYWALKER! H-HE  
EVIDENTLY  
SIGNALLED US TO  
*TAKE OFF...*  
THEN DUCKED  
BACK OUT AS  
THE RAMP  
CAME UP!

The adventure continues next  
month in *CLASSIC STAR WARS* #16!



# STELLAR



10956 S.E. MAIN STREET

MILWAUKIE, OR 97222

We've got a ton of letters to sift through this month due to both the lack of room for Stellar Scribes last issue, as well as the tremendous response to our request for series title suggestions for the upcoming Russ Manning reprint series.

Before we begin, let me say that it's really gratifying to hear from so many of you that are taking advantage of the fact that we print the complete addresses of our correspondents in Stellar Scribes. Many of you have written to let us know that you've made new friends through this letter column (like Ian Westhoff below) — which I think is great! To be able to present the great *Star Wars* story and art of Archie Goodwin and Al Williamson as entertainment is a treat; to be able to create a stimulating and cathartic forum in Stellar Scribes for thousands of like-minded fans from around the world is truly the icing on the cake! By the way, anyone who *doesn't* want their full address printed, please be sure to let us know when you write.

Now on to the letters:

Nathan Olsen  
4920 Los Coyotes #4  
Long Beach, CA 90815

I just read CSW #12 and I think it was the best issue yet. The layouts are getting better. Steve did a wonderful job creating the right mood with his colors (although it would be nice if he could take out more of the inks; the pages sometimes seem too dark), and you've done a great job of cleaning up the text so that it flows smoothly. The best improvement I think you made though was the letters page. I really like the new logo and background art. Nice touch.

In fact, I think you should expand Stellar Scribes to four or five pages instead of the two

you've been doing. Imagine, a big forum for *Star Wars* fans. People could exchange information, tell how they got hooked on *Star Wars* . . . it would basically be the way it is now, but bigger . . . and better. How about it? Or maybe you could throw in a pen pal's section every few issues. People could send in their names, addresses, and possibly their favorite thing about *Star Wars*, or something like that. I guess my point is, do your best to make this comic fun!

When is the next *Star Wars* project coming out and what do you have in store for the future? I loved *Dark Empire* and would love to see more of the further adventures of Luke, Han, and Leia, especially since it doesn't look like George Lucas will be getting

**"How come there aren't any big-time creators banging down your door demanding to be allowed to work on a *Star Wars* project?"**

.....  
around to it any time soon. I would also like it if you did a miniseries featuring Han Solo from back before he became involved with the Rebel Alliance — maybe it could even include his first meeting with Chewbacca! I can dream . . .

How come there aren't any big-time creators banging down your door demanding to be allowed to work on a *Star Wars* project? I would think just about all of them would leap at the chance. Imagine, Frank Miller, John Byrne, or Walt Simonson . . . cool, huh?

**Believe me, Nathan, my primary goal in editing this comic book is to make it**

absolutely as fun as possible for you readers out there. I recognize as much as you the importance of this letters column (see my comments above), and when the volume of mail demands it, I have no qualms at all about expanding Stellar Scribes to four or five pages (like this month!). Reading the consistent and tremendously positive outpouring of fan response for this series is usually one of the highlights of my day here at the Dark Horse offices.

As to why there aren't any big-time creators banging down our door to work on *Star Wars* projects (you mean, of course, other than Cam Kennedy, and Al Williamson, and Mark Schultz, etc. . . ), I don't know. Frank? John? Walt? You guys know the number here . . .



Now here's some words from a fairly regular correspondent, commenting on both issues #11 and 12:

Robert Knaus  
320 Fisher St.  
Walpole, MA 02081

After ten issues of *Classic Star Wars*, #11 is the first one to slip slightly in the story department. It's not a radical drop in quality, but it's noticeable. The resolution to Luke's Aridus adventure was a bit underwhelming, considering the clever set-up in Issue #10, and the new quest for the power gem of Iridium isn't grabbing my attention like the previous story lines have. One thing I do like is the focus shifting from Luke to Han and Chewbacca. Oh, sure, Luke is the focal point of the whole *Star Wars* saga, but it's refreshing to let the other characters get their shots at the spotlight occasionally. What is the "trilogy of Han's pirating adventures" by Brian Daley that

Rich Gawel mentioned in his letter? Before I lose my train of thought, I don't like the new graphics on the inside front and back covers. Rather than *Star Wars*, they remind me of *The Terminator*. Please go back to the large black-and-white blowups of Al Williamson's work used in Issues #1-10.

Terrific cover by Bret Blevins on *Classic Star Wars* #12. The power gem story, which started a bit slowly, was inventively wrapped up here. One thing: if picking up Raskar's saber activated his dueling droid, how come it was stalking Han before he picked it up? Having Luke and Threepio crash land on Hoth was extremely logical, but if the Millennium Falcon could run the Imperial blockade, why couldn't Luke? Ray Murtaugh's colors were extremely good.

The Brian Daley trilogy of Han Solo adventures appeared in softcover back in 1979-80 from Ballantine Books, and included the following novels: *Han Solo at Stars' End*, *Han Solo's Revenge*, and *Han Solo and the Lost Legacy*. The three books are set just prior to *A New Hope*, and provide a good bit of insight into Han and Chewie's relationship pre-*Star Wars* at the very least. In answer to your other question, I interpret the ominous shadow of the dueling droid (which appears first on p. 6 of issue #12) as simply the shadow of the deactivated droid in its normal resting place.

I'm glad that you mentioned the inside front and back cover designs, Robert (and thanks for the nice words about the new letter column design, Nathan), since it gives me a perfect opening to plug the new book design which showed up first in issue #11. The look was created by Dark Horse design maestro Scott Fuentes, who up until now hasn't gotten any credit at all for developing the overall design of this comic. Let me rectify that right now. Scott spent a lot of time researching *Star Wars*-related design elements found in just about every media *Star Wars* has appeared in

to date. Real *Star Wars* aficionados should certainly recognize the Rebel and Imperial insignias being used as dingbats in this letter column. And I think his touch with the lightsaber blast running through the middle of the first page of the letter column is brilliant. It might be a bit more of a challenge to come up with Scott's source for the background design on the inside front and back covers, but rest assured that it's inspired by *Star Wars*, and not the *Terminator* movies. Anybody figure it out yet? Write and let us know what you think it is.



And partially in response to a question Robert Knaus posed in issue #10...

Jim Lopezzo  
47 Flintlock Dr.  
Long Valley, NJ 07853

Greetings! Issues #10 and 11 were great! Keep up the good work! In case everyone out there doesn't know, Dark Horse has released the *Dark Empire* series in trade paperback format. Check the order form on back of issue #11. Thank you, Dark Horse! In response to Robert Knaus's question in *Stellar Scribes*, issue #10: yes! I do remember the Droid cartoon during the '80s. I don't remember any particular episodes, because I was only five or six, but I know I enjoyed them. Now I've got a question: does anyone remember R2-D2 and C-3PO's appearance on "Sesame Street"? If anyone does, write in and say so! In closing, I leave you with this poem in appreciation of *Classic Star Wars*:

Four hours straight,  
I stayed up late to finish,  
*Dark Force Rising*.

Then it seems,  
An idea enters my dreams,  
Before the sun begins its rising.

I needed a *Classic Star Wars*,  
To make the blues go away.  
Of war, pollution, and racism,  
Because it gets worse every day.

We made the jump to hyperspace,  
Down to the comic shop.  
Damn to hell those red lights,  
At which they made us stop.

Now I'm reading and enjoying it,  
Down to my heart's content.  
Thank the Force for Dark Horse,  
And the allowance money I spent.

I don't know about the rest of you, but I think "Thank the Force for Dark Horse" has a really nice ring to it... whaddya think? Thanks for the great poem, Jim. Everyone here at Dark Horse got a big kick out of it! And thanks for the free *Dark Empire* plug — you said it better than I could have.



Khalil West  
248 Reynolds Terrace, Apt. 3-G  
Orange, NJ 07050

I think that Al Williamson and Archie Goodwin did a great job creating a solution to the Han-Leia-Luke love triangle in the strip. Before the release of *The Empire Strikes Back*, Williamson and Goodwin had already figured out a solution to the triangle, and they even gave Luke a love interest.

It's also evident from the beginning of *Empire* that Han will be the one for Leia, and that Leia's feelings for Luke are spiritual and more a friendship than a sexual relationship. It's obvious to me that Leia's kiss to Luke after he had been rescued by Han is purely to make Han jealous. Even the fact that at the end of *Empire* Luke chooses to psychically communicate with Leia, and the compassion he expresses toward her suggests a certain family relation. To me, it was no surprise that in *Return of the Jedi*, Obi-Wan told Luke about his secret twin sister.

P.S.: I run a free fan club called The Rebel Alliance. If you're interested, contact me through the mail service. Thank!



Gary Lacroix  
616 Marville Rd.  
Woonsocket, RI 02895

Congratulations on your *Classic Star Wars* comic. The *Star Wars* trilogy of movies are by far the best movies I have ever seen and I share the same excitement over the saga as your Stellar Scribes writers. I must admit though that after years without any talk of new movies and a lack of *Star Wars* merchandise, the excitement began to fade (a little). I thought all hopes of a new saga were just that: hopes. Then one day I spotted an article and my dream came true: more movies! I have since seen many more articles, one stating the contracts are signed and the date everyone is waiting for, 1997, is the year for the new saga to begin!

Needless to say, my excitement is right back up there! It's great to see more new merchandise such as the Galaxy cards and your fine comics. Although I am impressed with the entire *Classic Star Wars* comic, I must say a fine job was done on the color. I also enjoy the *Star Wars* Showcase. It gives artists of all ages and talents a showcase for their work. Want more compliments? The debut in issue #8 of "What Has Come Before" on page one was a good addition. I'm looking forward to *Tales of the Jedi* and any future *Star Wars* works. Where there's demand, there's a bounty!



Scott Tymchyn  
PO Box 136  
Guilford Center, NY 12085

I am writing to express my thanks and tell you that you're doing a wonderful job with the story and art of *Classic Star Wars*. Ever since I can remember, I've been fascinated with *Star Wars*. Whenever I could, I would buy toys, books, comics, and whatever else I could get my hands on.

Then it was sometime last year when I went to Canterbury Tales, my local comics and collectible toy store, that I first discovered *Dark Empire* #1. I was as happy as I could ever be. Then I got

disappointed when I found out it was only a six-part set. Then Jim, the store owner, told me about *Classic Star Wars*. So I picked up the first issue and I was mesmerized. So after just picking up issue #10, I figured it was time to write you and thank you for making us *Star Wars* fans open our imaginations and relive *Star Wars* and all their adventures.

The old Marvel *Star Wars* comics are also very good, but I think *Classic Star Wars* takes the cake. Al Williamson draws a good Luke Skywalker, but Cam Kennedy draws the best Luke Skywalker I've ever seen. And the best cover you've ever done was *Dark Empire* #2, drawn by Dave Dorman.



Adam Throne  
46 Jefferson St.  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

First, thank you for the *Classic Star Wars* series. I have been a *Star Wars* fan ever since I, as a seven-year-old boy, stepped inside a darkened theater in 1977 and watched a galaxy come to life upon the screen. *Classic Star Wars* has helped to revive many good memories of my favorite space fantasy, and also memories of what it was like to be a child growing up in the late 1970s. I grew up on *Star Wars*, and I'm sure that many readers understand what I mean by this. Now I'm a twenty-three-year-old college graduate who would welcome correspondence with other nostalgia-seeking fans.

I have to say, the Luke Skywalker of issues #10 and 11 seemed to fawn a bit much over the reappearance of Ben. He was a bit too eager to follow a man who apparently died, and not even question Ben's reappearance, although maybe it's a question of his faith. The turn of the actor from Vader's side to Luke seemed a bit too predictable as well, but it was nevertheless an enjoyable story.

Something I admire about Archie Goodwin's story lines, aside from his ability to skillfully weave components from *Star Wars* and *Empire* into one story

line — such as the Super Star Destroyer — is his skillful character touches. The story of Han and Chewie's quest for the power gems is enlivened by a small, but not unnoticeable, examination of the interaction of these two characters. Here we see Han growing slightly paranoid when Chewbacca does not immediately come to his rescue, only to learn that Chewbacca was assisting him by learning of the whereabouts of power gems. This clearly shows the loyalty of Chewbacca, and Han's sometimes all-too-innate tendency to look out for himself. This interaction is further explored when Han volunteers Chewie to fight in the gladiator arena: "Have I ever let you down?" Han asks. Chewie's response makes it quite clear that Han has, even if the line is a throwaway. I hope that this dynamic is explored in future issues.

Thanks for listening, and thanks for the memories.



Warren Scott  
221-B R. D. #1  
Colliers, WV 26035

I have been enjoying *Classic Star Wars* since the first issue and hope it will continue for many issues. Archie Goodwin's stories are exciting and full of characterization, and Al Williamson has become one of my favorite comic artists. One element of *Classic Star Wars* that may be overlooked is the vivid and appealing coloring. Steve Buccellato has done an excellent job. In fact, the main reason I'm writing is to ask you some questions about the job of a colorist: 1) I read somewhere that colorists use special paints to color comics; do they ever use other media, such as colored pens or pencils? 2) are colorists freelancers or do they work for particular comics companies? 3) how many comics does an average colorist do a month, and does Mr. Buccellato color other comics for Dark Horse?; and 4) what kind of input does the editor have in the work of the colorist?



Well, thanks for your time. Goodwin and Williamson made *Star Wars* a great comic strip, but you and your staff have made it a great comic book.

Here are some answers to your coloring questions, Warren (it sounds like you might be an aspiring colorist yourself . . .), with technical details provided by Dark Horse's own Matthew Hollingsworth:

1) Any media can be used to color comic books. In order to produce the color guides for regular process color books (the majority of Dark Horse's color comics are produced this way), it's incumbent upon the color artist (emphasis on *artist* — because they truly are) to provide as close a representation of what the final comic book page will look like when printed as possible. Matt uses Dr. Martin's dyes, as well as Winsor & Newton gouache and water colors. Matt admits to also using Prismacolor markers occasionally, mostly for gray rendering, and Prismacolor pencils, mostly for corrections, but recommends not using markers or color pencils, since they unnecessarily limit the palette, making it difficult to achieve subtle color variations (whew!).

2) Yes to both. Dark Horse currently has three color artists working on staff — the aforementioned Mr. Hollingsworth, as well as the immensely talented James Sinclair and Pamela Rambo. Other major comic book companies, such as Valiant, also use their own in-house color artists. But there is also a large pool (although not large enough, as far as I'm concerned) of freelance talent, such as Steve Buccellato, to choose from when seeking color artists, as well as several major coloring service bureaus, such as Steve Oliff's OlyOptics and Lovern Kindzierski's Digital Chameleon, that provide both manual coloring and digital color separation services for comic book companies.

3) An average color artist handles between three to five

books a month (although Matt admits that at one time, in his younger more carefree days, he was buried under the weight of as many as nine books a month!).

4) As an editor, I will coordinate color-related notes from the writer, penciller, and inker prior to sending art pages off, in order to give the color artist an idea as to whether there are specific, and not-so-obvious, color choices to be aware of that would have a bearing on the story — for example, beet red sunsets or olive green eyes. Typically, I won't spend a lot of time on the coloring process again (other than briefly reviewing the color guides when they're returned from the color artist) until it's time to proof the computer color separations that are produced from the color guides (and this is where I'll typically spend the most time dealing with the very detailed aspects of the coloring process).



Ian Westhoff  
138 Park Ave.  
Teaneck, NJ 07666

I've never done this before — write to a comic book — but with the excellent work you've been doing, I just had to. The *Star Wars* trilogy has been a part of my life ever since I was two years old. My earliest memories are of *Star Wars*. I've been a fan all my life and I always will be. Besides being great movies, they have been ways to get away from any problems that may occur, whether it was the painful experience of having my parents separated for twelve years, or just the tough times of being a teenager. *Star Wars* has always been there for me to escape reality and live in "a galaxy far, far away."

When I saw your comic I had no idea that there was once a *Star Wars* news strip. Immediately I bought it and was hooked on it. I'm not sure what you're gonna do when the series runs out, but I beg you to keep the *Star Wars*

comic alive. Just like the world needs laughter, the world needs *Star Wars*.

I would like to thank you for keeping *Star Wars* alive. These comics are a great addition to my collection, which is still growing. I would also like to thank you for something else. Thanks to you, I made two great friends who collect this comic: Ian Thompson, who wrote to you in issue #6, and Tonya K. Henry, who wrote to you in issue #8. I only have one wish that I could meet them in person, but until that day comes, I'll just keep writing and calling them.

To sum it all up, congratulations on your excellent comic, and please continue with the *Star Wars* comics. It's a must in life. Thanks for bringing back all of those great memories.



Several readers wrote in response to Rich Gawel's request for information on how to procure tapes of the *Star Wars* radio drama. There are many places you can order the tapes from, in either cassette or CD format; a couple of them are listed below:

Highbridge Audio Catalog  
1000 Westgate Drive  
St. Paul, MN 55114-1631  
(800) 755-8532

Wireless  
Minnesota Public Radio  
PO Box 64422  
St. Paul, MN 55164-0422  
(800) 669-9999

Word has it that the cassette tapes can even be found in the books-on-tape sections of better bookstores. Thanks to Greg Vilicic of Nightbat Comics in Clifton, NJ, and David A. Zilkowski of Little Falls, NJ, for the information.

As a special treat for the Showcase this month, we've got a great new pin-up by SF and fantasy artist extraordinaire, Kelly Freas. Hope ya like it!

And now, until next month, I'm . . .  
— Bob Cooper



# DCP

PRESENTS A  
SCAN BY

# DARTH SCANNER

*Leeching leads to the Dark Side of the Force.  
A good Jedi buys comics and supports the industry!*